import of rice for Central Pool is not required at this stage. However, if trend of procurement shows shortfall, the Government may, at an appropriate time, decide to consider import of rice to ensure availability of rice in the domestic market at affordable price.

**Separate FTA's with Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia**

2178. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether in addition to Indo-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA) the Competent Authority is negotiating additional and separate FTAs with Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of above negotiations;

(c) whether steps be taken to consult with the State Governments before finalizing above agreements;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) India is currently negotiating Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Thailand and Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Malaysia.

(c) and (d) Domestic consultations are being held through various rounds of Inter-Ministerial meetings and stakeholders dialogues.

(e) Question does not arise.

**National Design Policy**

2179. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the National Design Policy and how it helps in promoting "Made in India" brand abroad;

(b) whether any request from the Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received by Ministry for setting up of National Institute of Design; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and action taken so far on the above request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The National Design Policy was approved by the Government on 8th February, 2007. The salient features of the Policy include:—

- Preparation of a platform for creative design development